

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008
7:30 PM

Present:

School Committee Members Denise Burns, Chair
Joe Curran, Vice Chair
Joe Curro
Leba Heigham
Ronald Spangler, Secretary
Jeff Thielman

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Chief Financial Off: Sue Mazzarella
Interim Sp. Ed. Dir: Gerald Kupperschmidt
Student Rep: Bobby McWatters

Absent:

Asst. Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
School Committee member Sue Sheffler
Student Rep Callie McHugh

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Holly Cscapski requested that the committee look into a policy to insure that suitable music is being played at the middle and high school dances and hold staff accountable to implement the policy.

Ms. Barbara Goodman thanked the committee on their commitment and support with STAND and encouraged more community members to join in on April 15th.

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

* Approval of the minutes from March 25, 2008

* Approval of Warrant #08131 dated March 25, 2008 amount of \$604,346.67

On a motion by Mr. Curran and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to approved consent agenda.

Vote 4-0-2 abstentions. Mr. Curro and Ms. Heigham abstaining

RECOGNITION

Ms. Burns acknowledged the creative artwork from the Stratton Pride student's that is being displayed in the School Committee room for the month of April.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Ms. Bouvier, Director of Health, Wellness and Counseling presented to the committee the Wellness Policy that includes nutrition, physical activity and general wellness procedures. This policy was made possible with the collaborative efforts of parents, administration, teachers, and School Committee members while continuing to follow the government guidelines.

Ms. Boucher, Assistant Director of Food Services pointed out to the committee that her department is continuing to provide more healthy choices to students. Changes have already included whole grains, low fat milk and healthy snacks. Food Services would like to expand the breakfast programs at more of our schools, other than the high school, middle school and Pierce.

Ms. Hirsch, Lead Guidance counselor spoke about the Arlington Public Schools increased support for the social and emotional needs of students. The services have been provided by joint services within the town to support at risk students.

Ms. Razi, Intervention Counselor echoed the collaborate efforts of many and spoke on programs that have been in place and new programs that are providing services for individuals with substance abuse issues and the many emotional needs of the students.

Already this year the counselors have seen improvement in students who receive these services; the commitment of these professionals has been rewarding and continues.

Ms. Sheridan-Curran spoke about the new Diversion Program that is in place to provide students an opportunity to improve behavior and seek an alternative in place of criminal charges for a first non-violent offence. Currently twelve students had signed contracts with four students violating their contract and eight students currently making restitution. This has been a very positive program, which is seeking grant funds to continue to provide a better path for students.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Levenson spoke on the new 6th grade Transition Program being offered this summer created by the Ottoson Guidance Department. He also spoke on the research efforts on health insurance costs and will continue to share information as more facts become available. The

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hiring process has been very positive and Nate thanked the committee for approving the budget, which makes it possible to begin hiring very qualified candidates.

Mr. Spangler spoke about two articles in the Ponder Report and would like Nate to report back to the committee on the restroom conditions and the special education caseloads at the high school.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Policies and Procedures

Mr. Spangler tabled the following policies from the last meeting and presented the policies to the new committee members as a first reading:

*Policy Dissemination, School Committee Legislative
Program, Budget Transfer Authority, CJ: Administrative Intern Program
BIE: School Committee Member Insurance and
BIA-E: New School Committee Member Orientation*

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler reported on the art season within the district and the many art fairs taking place.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Burns entertained the motion and Mr. Spangler seconded to approve to schedule the next School Committee meeting to Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 7:30 pm due to school vacation week Being April 22, 2008.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted to adjourn at 9:53 pm.
Vote: 6:0

*Submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee
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